Canadian Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

Vol. 12, No. 36 TORONTO, SEPTEMBER 17, 1947 $2.00 Per Annum

Prefab Pix Houses For Dom'n

Silverwood Buys Skyway Drive-in

Newest group to enter the motion picture industry is headed by A. E. Silverwood of Silverwood Dairies, Limited, with offices in London, Ontario. It has acquired the major holdings of Skyway Drive-In Theatres, Limited, which operates situations in

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Vic Cashier Third In Atlantic City

Second runner-up in the Atlantic City beauty contest was Miss Margaret Marshall of Toronto, former cashier of the Victoria Theatre, who was the first Canadian to win any kind of a place in the 26-year history of the event. Miss Marshall, one of 54

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Semi-Ready Structures To Be Marketed By Toronto Firm

Prefabricated theatres for use in Canada will be ready for delivery in the next 60 days from All-Steel Buildings, Limited, Toronto, according to P. C. Smith, general sales manager of the company. They are being manufactured in Detroit by Great Lakes Steel, source of many semi-ready USA houses, and will be imported. A set of blueprints will accompany each structure so that they can be erected by local contractors.

The prefabs, modified in manufacture to suit the Canadian climate, have been designed to meet the regulations of the Motion Picture Censorship and Theatre Inspection branch of the

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Paul Douglas WB Ad-Pub Chief

Paul Douglas has been appointed advertising and promotion representative of Warner Brothers in Canada by Mort Blumenstock, who heads that department in the parent company, states Haskell Masters, Dominion head.

Douglas, recently of UA, has been in New York for the past few weeks brushing up on WB methods. He was formerly associate editor of "Applause" and has considerable radio background.

He succeeds Glenn Ireton, who resigned to enter business for himself.

Golf Tournament On Sept. 26th

The fourth annual Canadian Motion Picture Golf Championships will be held at Rouge Hills Golf & Country Club, Rouge Hills, Ontario, on Friday, September 26th, it was decided at a meeting held last week. The club, which is reached by driving east

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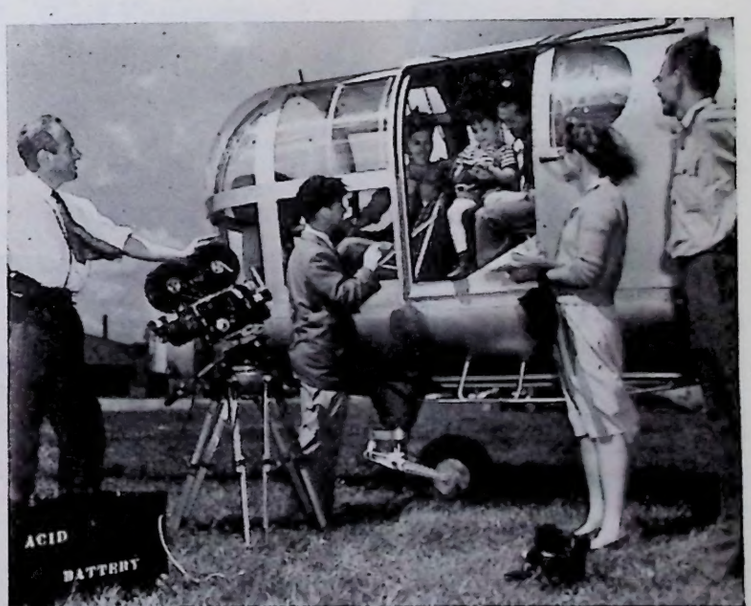
Walton's Eclipse

Tom Walton, Jr. has acquired the Eclipse, Toronto, from Mrs. Feighen and it will be transferred on September 15th. She has operated the house for many years.

NFB Crew Films the Fair



National Film Board production crew is shown setting up a shot for a short on the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto. Four-year-old Charles Pachter, star of the film, is shown between F/L Pat Clark and Sgt. Barney Dawson, who flew the RCAF helicopter from Trenton to get aerial shots of the Ex. On the ground are (left to right) Jean-Marie Couture, cameraman; Jack Olsen, director; Mrs. Barbara Bryce, business manager; and Tim Wilson, assistant director. It will be the November release in the Canada Carries On series.

Little Change Seen In Canadian Film Tax

Although it is understood that a general study is being made in Ottawa of the circumstances surrounding the importation of films into Canada, it is the opinion of many informed persons located there that no important amendments will be made to present tax regulations. None who offered such opinion, however, was willing to qualify it. There is an almost complete lack of public or semi-public information on the matter, for Ottawa has a tradition of being tight-lipped about budget changes and there are fewer leaks in that field than any other.

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Pereira To Produce

William Pereira has been assigned by RKO to produce "The Captain Was a Lady."

Tony Beacon Stunt Creates Excitement

Noon hour downtowners in Toronto crowded around to watch ten lovely girls bothering a gentleman with mask and sword who played a violin. The girls explained to the question askers that he was Pagannini, the violinist, whose life was being pictured at the Fairlawn in Eagle-Lion's "The Magic Bow."

The street fiddler, strictly union, and the pursuing femmes, were organized by Tony Beacon, Eagle-Lion exploiter.

ERIC GREENWOOD TO ASTRAL FILMS

Publicity and advertising representative for Astral Films is Eric Greenwood, who worked with Jimmy Cowan and Glenn Ireton, and before that fronted for Eaton's Auditorium for two years. He's handled Victor Borga, "The Hasty Heart" and other attractions in Canada.

Announcement

The corporate name of Regal Films Corporation (1941) Ltd. has been changed as of September Second to

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER PICTURES OF CANADA LTD.

Please address all correspondence in the present name of the company.

(Signed) HENRY L. NATHANSON
President.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures of Canada, Ltd.

277 Victoria St., TORONTO, Ont.	1200 St. Alexander St., MONTREAL, Que.	297 Colony St. WINNIPEG, Man.
131 Princess St., ST. JOHN, NB.	8th Ave. and 6th St., CALGARY, Alta.	1204 Burrard St., VANCOUVER, BC.

Silverwood Buys Skyway Drive-in

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the areas of Windsor, London and Hamilton and is said to be building near Toronto.

Among the principal shareholders of the company before the transfer of stock to the new owners were Roy Thomson, Jack Cooke, Harrison Securities Corporation of Toronto, H. B. Housser and Company of Toronto and H. W. Long and Company of New York. Gordon Masters of Harrison Securities Corporation remains a director as representatives of the debenture holders.

The sale took place in August for an unstated sum. Shares, of which there are 135,000, have been at between $1.75 to $2 in the market. There are $200,000 worth of debentures, which were priced at $100 per debenture plus accrued interest when offered the public last September.

At the time the public was invited to buy stock the ads pointed out that the Hamilton drive-in, with a capacity of 700 cars, would earn over $50,000 in 1946. The original stockholders, stated one of them, sold out because the offer of the Silverwood interests was highly satisfactory.

R. H. (Doc) Manley of Geneva, Ohio, major figure in connection with the actual operation of the drive-ins, retains his position.

Drive-ins operate from May 15 to October 15 and charge adults only, with children being admitted free.

Pickford Changes

Phillip Kay, father of Harold Kay of Eagle-Lion, has acquired the Pickford Theatre, Toronto, from Charles and Hyman Rotenberg, who operated it for 27 years. Occupancy is on September 29th.

Buys Famous Story

Producer James S. Burkett has purchased Alfred Noyes' famous "The Midnight Express."

Bob Hope Set For 'Sorrowful Jones'

Paramount has announced that its next starring vehicle for Bob Hope will be "Sorrowful Jones," film story of the colorful character created by the late Damon Runyon. The picture will mark a departure from the type of comedy which Hope has been doing and will present him in a portrayal designed to show his ability to add drama to his funmaking. "Sorrowful Jones," the horse race player with the soft heart is one of the best known of the Runyon characters.

Little Change Seen In Canadian Film Tax

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Nor does a general study indicate possible action, for re-examination of various fields of revenue is a common and more-or-less continuing procedure. But there are those who feel that Canada, also concerned with a lack of USA dollars, will not remain entirely unaffected while countries in and out of the Empire devise means of cutting down the need for them. The one fact which detracts from the possibility of action along the lines taken by Great Britain and other countries is that Canada's dollar position has improved considerably because of tourist traffic.

There will likely be some minor changes in the future in tax regulations applying to films from all countries, for there have been persistent unofficial assertions that the 50 per cent discount on prints imported from the United Kingdom, in effect since 1941, will be cancelled.

It is certain that Hollywood's position in the film markets of the world will never be the same again. While adverse trade balance is the immediate factor, the splurge of domestic production in all countries, usually followed by such protective legislation as quota laws, will not help either.

The British tax of 75 per cent on rental revenue is also a serious blow to Canadian production, since Britain is, next to the USA, the greatest market. George Hirliman, who was about ready to start the first of six features to be produced here with the aid of Queensway Studios, is holding off until the results of the meeting between representatives of Hollywood and Britain are known. It is said that Al Rogell, who produced "Northwest Stampede" in Alberta for Eagle-Lion, had plans for three more films and these will likely be dropped.

Right now both Quebec Productions Corporation and Dominion Productions are worried, for their respective films, "The Whispering City" and "Bush Pilot." are affected by the British tax and their financial backers are not very happy. The NFB, which is distributing "Exercise Musk-ox" and other films, will find the UK market less fruitful.

Some Hollywood companies are retrenching frantically, particularly those who rely on Independent producers. Canadian distribution personnel is already affected in a small way.

Australia, in an attempt to balance its trade with the USA, has decided to reduce its film purchases by 30 per cent and Hollywood has countered with an offer to freeze one-third of the annual rentals of $6,000,000 for 18 months. New Zealand will also reduce its dollar expenditures.

Toronto House Being Sued By CAPAC

The Composers, Authors and Publishers Association of Canada, Limited, has instituted action against Morris Becker, owner and operator of the College Playhouse Theatre in Toronto, for unauthorized use of music composed by a client of CAPAC.

Music in question is the song, "I've Heard That Song Before," as performed in Republic's "Murder in the Music Hall."

NFB Holds Annual Golf Tournament

Harold Costin and Mrs. D. Peacock teamed up to capture the Crawley trophy with a low net of 40, winning A class honors over a nine-hole course during the second annual National Film Board tournament, which was open to wives and friends as well as personnel.

B class winner was the Jo Steevers-Tex Rekert team, with 43. Second honors in the A class went to Arla Sarre-Pat Hogan duo and to E. Riley and Ching McDonald in the B.

There were 52 who competed in the tournament, committee for which was headed by Doug Peacock and manned by Bill Comrie, Les Baird, Tex Rekert, Harold Costin and Tom White. Ross McLean, government film commissioner, was unable to be present this year and Budge Crawley presented the trophies.

Scene of the event was the Glenlea Golf Club, Ottawa.

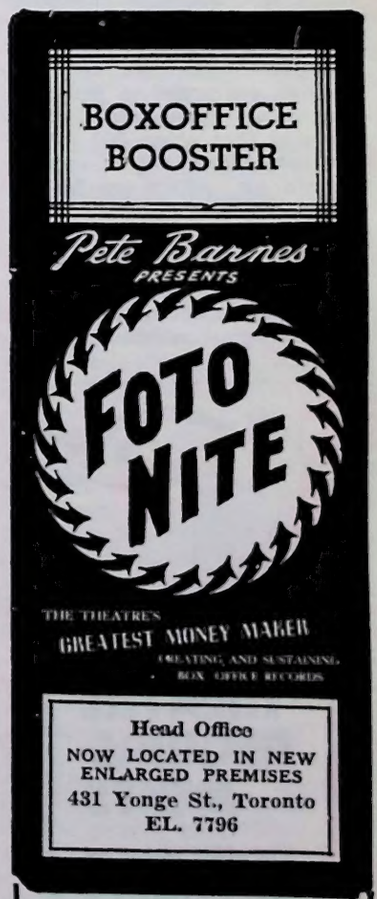
Prefab Theatres For Dominion

(Continued from Page 1)

Province of Ontario. Representatives of the company have discussed them with O. J. Silverthorne, chairman, and Dan McPhee, head of theatre inspection. Silverthorne visited the USA recently to examine them in operation. Although none has been submitted for approval yet, no difficulty is expected.

The standard width of the prefab theatres from All-Steel Buildings will be 40 feet and their length will be from 60 feet to whatever is desired, with each addition being 20 feet long. A 40 x 80 theatre will seat 500.

The company has a long waiting list of exhibitors or would-be exhibitors from rural communities in all parts of Canada, states Smith. Enquiries are from a cross-section of the Dominion. The company has not advertised prefab theatres but sells Quonset huts and these attracted the attention of persons interested in the theatre business.



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Golf Tournament On Sept. 26th

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along Kingston Road to the Lansing Cutoff, then turning right, was chosen because of its ample accommodation. It is larger in every way than the Oakdale Club, where the last few tournaments were played.

Archie J. Laurie is chairman of the committee and Tom S. Daley secretary-treasurer. Both are tournament founders. Co-chairmen of the ticket committee are I. H. Allen and Doug Rosen; co-chairmen of the prize committee are Len Bishop and Arch Jolley; Pete Myers heads the games committee and A. J. Laurie and Martin Bloom are in charge of arrangements. Recording secretary is Arch Jolley.

The tournament is a bit delayed this year because the committee members have been busy working on Pioneer and Variety matters. After that they had to catch up on their own work. For a while it seemed that the tournament might be postponed but so many enquiries have been directed at Canadian Film Weekly and committeemen that there was no choice but to carry on.

Out-of-Toronto film and thetre men are urged to make arrangements immediately. It is expected that about 300 golfers and non-golfers will be present. Tickets for golfers are $4 and non-golfers $3.

'April Showers' Cast

Robert Alda, Jack Carson and Ann Sothern will head the cast of Warners' musical, "April Showers."

Lines and Outlines

Some pretty persevering thieves swiped the 200-pound safe out of the Empire, Hamilton, carried it to the mountain, broke it open and got $500 . . . Charlie Mavety was presented with an Australian saddle at the Ex, where he was exhibiting his prize Palaminos. The saddle, presented by the Australian Trade Commissioner, came from Chips Rafferty, star of the Aussie-made "The Overlanders." When Chips was here Charlie entertained him at his ranch and showed his collection of saddles, including one supposed to be from Australia. Chips said it wasn't and that he would send him a real Anzac job—and he did . . . There is a character named Captain Bossin in the Cosmo serial, "The Sealed Verdict," which Para will shoot shortly. It's no coincidence. The story is by L. S. B. (Lionel) Shapiro, a Montreal lad who was Maclean's correspondent overseas. He chose the name as a rib at our clan, he being friendly with some of us. There are no Bossins we know of who are not of our family . . . Movieism: The way the women rush to get their glasses off and into their bags as the picture fades out.

* * *

Brass Banding the Boys

Dinners to welcome newly-arrived managers are becoming the thing. In Oshawa Al Hartshorn, recently of the Algoma, Soo, was dined in the Hotel Genosha by local luminaries, introduced by Jack Arthur and officially welcomed by the mayor. His successor in the Soo, C. J. Jeffreys, was greeted at the affair with which Al was farewelled . . . Bill Williams manages Sudbury's new Century . . . Happy to see good old Ed Goldsmith penciling in pix at Allied, for everyone is fond of him . . . Can't tell whether Ascap's 300 p.c. hike in the USA means anything here until Capac's exec meets this fall . . . They're lining up at eight a.m. for "Gone With the Wind" . . . Jack Roher was the chief figure in quite an incident the other day. He was headed down Victoria Street when a policeman rushed up and asked him to surrender his revolver. The cop, young and new, was very nervous in spite of Jack's mild appearance. It turned out that a lady had informed him that she saw Jack transfer a gun from his pocket to his briefcase which, when searched, revealed only some contracts he hoped to have signed. The embarrassed cop couldn't find the lady, either.

* * *

In the Land of Babble On

Newest 16 mm. circuit in Northern Ontario is Triff Traveling Talkies, which operates in a different community along the railroad line each night, so that transportation and express are not problems . . . Bob Mummery, son-in-law of Menzo Craig of Ridgetown and Dresden, is operating a 16 mm. drive-in at Kent Bridge, near Watford . . . Bill Sturgess, old-time Toronto exhibitor, passed away in a Detroit hospital recently. He was Republic representative in Western Michigan and with his son operated a theatre in Grandville . . . Jack Fitzgibbons' Doberman puppy, Mikal of Glen Ayr, won four ribbons at the Ex dog show . . . Charlie Richards, Christie manager, will switch to B&F's new Vaughan down the street when it opens, Jackie M. Fine informs us . . . Izzy Shulman, Humberstone manager, is really very ill . . . Astral Films has reissued "Damaged Goods" . . . Charlie Lazarus, Montreal Gazetteer, will do a piece on the NFB for the New York Times . . . Pauline McGibbon, IODE Ontario film convenor, is on the sick list . . . Reaction to Stepin Fetchit after seeing him in an Ex side show: Ham on brown.

Leroy Theatre Open

First theatre in Leroy, Saskatchewan, the 308-seat Leroy, owned and operated by E. Sherven, opened recently.

MGM Signs Star

Barbara Stanwyck has been signed by MGM for the title role in J. P. Marquand's best-seller, "B.F.'s Daughter."

Vic Cashier Third In Atlantic City

(Continued from Page 1)

contestants, was popular with the crowd, receiving the most applause every time she paraded.

The five-foot-six beauty, now 18, won a $1,000 scholarship for being best in the bathing suit event, then added a $2,500 one to it when she placed third. The girls were asked to display talent as well as charm and Margaret sang Strauss' "When We Were Young." She will use the scholarships to pursue her voice studies.

Winner of the contest and now Miss America was Barbara Jo Walker, five-foot-seven Sunday School teacher who entered as Miss Memphis. Next came Miss Minnesota, who was 22-year-old Elaine Campbell of Minneapolis, and then Miss Canada—Margaret Marshall.

Miss Canada, who was crowned in Hamilton after taking the Miss Toronto laurels, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Marshall, Darling Avenue. She entered the industry as cashier of the York, Toronto, then came to the Victoria. With her in Atlantic City was Irene Storey, assistant manager of the theatre, who is a good friend.

Miss Marshall received civic receptions in Hamilton and Toronto. Her competing in the Atlantic City event excited great public interest and the newspapers filled many columns with details of the affair. The Canadian motion picture industry is proud of her, for she is an exceedingly nice person. She appeared on the stage during the Variety benefit show held recently.

CAPAC Wins 75% Hike In Radio

Copyright Appeals Board has allowed a 75 per cent increase in fees to the Composers, Authors and Publishers Association of Canada, Limited, in the radio field. The fee for licensed receiving sets was raised from eight cents to 14, of which half is payable by the privately-owned stations and half by the CBC.

Joan Barton Set In Musical 'Mary Lou'

Joan Barton, actress-singer who last appeared for Columbia in one of the top roles in "Cigarette Girl," was signed by that studio for the lead in "Mary Lou," musical to be produced by Sam Katzman when he completes "Glamour Girl." Frankie Carle and his Orchestra top the "Mary Lou" cast which features Thelma White and Glenda Farrell. Arthur Dreifuss directs.

THE PICK OF THE PICTURES

CANADIAN Film Weekly
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REVIEWS INFORMATION RATINGS

Vol. 12, No. 36 REVIEWS FROM FILM DAILY, NEW YORK $2.00 Per Annum

Cry Wolf

with Barbara Stanwyck, Errol Flynn
Warners 83 Mins.

FAIR NUMBER FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE HAS SUSPENSE AND UNUSUAL TWIST.

Sustaining a fair degree of suspense for most of its unfoldment, this offering manages to secure a grasp upon the imagination and via a series of puzzling events evolves as a drama of unusual twists and variations.

It's a clever job of direction that was turned in by Peter Godfrey who fashioned his dramatic content in such a manner as to keep the audience guessing about the characters' motives.

Miss Stanwyck arrives at the home of her dead husband in time for the funeral. She meets Flynn who does not immediately feel friendly to her as she was the wife of his nephew. Flynn did not know of the marriage. Miss Stanwyck stands to receive a considerable inheritance.

Flynn is something of a scientist with a laboratory in an unused wing of the house. Geraldine Brooks, Flynn's niece, meets Miss Stanwyck and at once enlists her aid. In the early hours, sounds of scuffling and screams are heard. Miss Stanwyck determines to learn what they are about and makes a series of reconnaisance trips up dumbwaiters, over roofs. She is caught by Flynn who seems menacing. Miss Brooks dies violently. Flynn calls it suicide. Miss Stanwyck states she was driven to it. Riding about the place Miss Stanwyck finds Richard Basehart, her presumed-dead husband. He is a mental case. She returns to confront Flynn. Basehart turns up, bludgeons Flynn and demonstrates the streak of family insanity that Flynn in devious, harsh manner had been trying to shield Miss Stanwyck from. Basehart dies in an accident. There is indication of more than mere alliance between Miss Stanwyck and Flynn at the end.

CAST: Barbara Stanwyck, Errol Flynn, Geraldine Brooks, Richard Basehart, Jerome Cowan, John Ridgely.

CREDITS: Producer, Henry Blanke; Director, Peter Godfrey; Screenplay, Catherine Turney; Based on a novel by Marjorie Carleton; Photography, Carl Guthrie

DIRECTION, Good.
PHOTOGRAPHY, Good.

Ciannelli Signed

Eduardo Ciannelli has been signed for a featured role in Warners' "To the Victor."

Welcome Stranger

with Bing Crosby, Barry Fitzgerald, Joan Caulfield
Paramount 107 Mins.

SET CONTROLS FOR SOCK BIZ WITH THIS ONE; GOOD SHOW ALL THE WAY WITH CROSBY AND FITZGERALD CLICKING SOLIDLY.

Gentle humor pervades the story herein. The light touch is always to the fore. To this end laughter will ring as the plot gets humorous punctuation from situations building to that purpose in subtle, neat constructions.

Storywise the plot is an inventive, imaginative offering unfolding with ease and coherence. It is simple for the most part and includes in its various excursions the life of a smalltown doctor, romance, music, wit, characters and the able singing of Crosby.

Starting in Boston, the scenario takes up with Crosby and Fitzgerald almost at once. Fitzgerald has been doctor to a small Maine town for 30 years and he engages, sight unseen, a substitute medico, so he can get off to a long contemplated vacation. Unknown to each other aboard a train, the pair get into each other's hair in light style. On arrival they meet up and immediately Fitzgerald does not want any part of Crosby around. A deal is a deal, however, and Crosby is determined to stick it out no matter what the attitude of the doctor or the small town folk.

Crosby is a good doctor, however, and his application is rewarded. Fitzgerald has an attack of appendicitis; Crosby operates skillfully. His assistant in the emergency is Joan Caulfield. First thing you know Crosby has set his cap for her.

From that point on the plot boils and bubbles merrily for the most part. Crosby is accepted generally and the element that would dismiss him is foiled by its own foolishness. Lastly Crosby is triumphing over the opposition and headed for romantic fulfillment with Miss Caulfield.

CAST: Bing Crosby, Barry Fitzgerald, Joan Caulfield, Wanda Hendrix, Frank Faylen, Elizabeth Patterson, Robert Shayne.

CREDITS: Producer, Sol C. Siegel; Director, Elliott Nugent; Screenplay, Arthur Sheekman, N. Richard Nash; Story, Frank Butler; Photography, Lionel Lindon.

DIRECTION, First Rate.
PHOTOGRAPHY, Fine.

The Magic Bow

with Stewart Granger, Phyllis Calvert
Eagle-Lion 105 Mns.

LIFE AND LOVES OF PAGANINI; VERY GOOD BET FOR ART SPOTS, MUSIC AUDIENCE.

This cinematic biography of the musical life of Nicolo Paganini in the Napoleonic era is a good bet for the art house and other spots with audiences appreciative of the musical content. Almost wholly concerned with Paganini, there is also Tartini and the well-known Beethoven Violin Concerto Opus 61. While Stewart Granger mimes through the motions, its Yehudi Menuhin on the soundtrack supplemented by the National Symphony Orchestra.

The J. Arthur Rank Production from the Gainsborough Studios is somewhat on the slow-moving side but musical interludes ably serve as diverting punctuation.

Beginning in Genoa where the rising composer is hired by Miss Calvert to play outside a jail where her father is incarcerated, the story gets off on a somewhat jocular note. Violin notes drown out the escaping jailbird's sawing through the bars. Miss Calvert, who is of the French aristocracy, has Granger play a concert in her home in Parma.

They fall in love and it becomes a grand passion that is thwarted by Napoleon. Nappy wants her to marry a nobleman, if she doesn't Granger will be roughed up, maybe done in. She deserts Granger. Later, after a highly successful tour on the continent they meet in Paris. A duel is fought by Granger and his rival. Miss Calvert being still unmarried. To save Granger she pretends affection for the other man. Still later Cecil Parker connives an engagement where Granger is to play before the Pope in the Vatican. During this, which is easily the best musical session, Miss Calvert has an emotional disturbance and decides Granger is for her so she sticks around and the pair are finally united.

CAST: Stewart Granger, Phyllis Calvert, Jean Kent, Dennis Price, Cecil Parker, Henry Edwards, Frank Vellier, Mary Jerrold.

CREDITS: Producer, R. J. Minney; Director, Bernard Knowles; Screenplay by Roland Pertwee; Based on a novel by Manuel Komroff; Violin solos, Yehudi Menuhin.

DIRECTION, Good
PHOTOGRAPHY, Average.

Song of the Thin Man

with William Powell, Myrna Loy
MGM 86 Mins.

POTENT ENTERTAINMENT DOUBLE ACTION (AUDIENCE-EXHIBITOR) VARIETY. WILL DO TRICK EASILY.

Nick and Nora are back in pursuit of criminal big game after an absence of a year-and-a-half. That that absence grows on the audience and makes them fonder of these characters is an easily arrived at conclusion. Here they are back again in full stride. Watch that stride.

It is a problem in deduction. The Loy-Powell combination for luring an audience athirst for a whodunit problem that in its centrifugal distribution of facts, incriminations, clues, personalities, motives and the required like, adds up to a potent entertainment. Translate entertainment in its fullest sense and you not only have a lethal drama but also an excursion into le jazz hot, psychiatry and murder plus. Into this toss material for gags and brother, you have something.

Out on the town one night, Mamma and Papa Charles (Loy-Powell) get themselves involved in a killing aboard a gambling ship anchored in the Atlantic off New York. The collective eyes and ears of the pair hear much, see more. Next morning a pair of newlyweds come a-calling for help. Bruce Cowling married Jayne Meadows against the wishes of her father. A wild shot brings Powell out of retirement and he proceeds to operate along his own peculiar, albeit interesting lines. First there's prowling aboard the murder vessel. Then Miss Loy deserts her bed to trail along. Keenan Wynn pops up on the scene, delivers himself of the glossary of the jam session, enlists Powell as a slush pumper and brings the trail up to the mental sanitarium room of Don Taylor. Taylor is eliminated as a suspect. Next Gloria Grahame is done in. Hollis is brought out of his mental daze, booked to play the ship. Re-opening is a festive turnout and in the midst of the glittering gathering Powell gets his man.

CAST: William Powell, Myrna Loy, Keenan Wynn, Dean Stockwell, Philip Reed, Patricia Morrison, Leon Ames.

CREDITS: Producer, Nat Perrin; Director, Edward Buzzell; Screenplay, Steve Fisher, Nat Perrin; Story by Stanley Roberts; Photography, Charles Rosher.

DIRECTION, Neat.
PHOTOGRAPHY, Fine.

SRO Gets RKO Pic For Dist'n

"Mr. Blandings Builds his Dream House," starring Cary Grant, Myrna Loy and Melvyn Douglas will be distributed by the Selznick Releasing Organization. This was the gist of an announcement made jointly by N. Peter Rathvon and Dore Schary in behalf of RKO Radio, and by Daniel T. O'Shea and Neil Agnew, for the David O. Selznick enterprises.

The picturization of the best-selling novel and book of the month selection by Eric Hodgins, in which RKO and Vanguard are jointly interested, thus becomes the first picture other than those produced by the Selznick Studio, to be released by the Selznick Releasing Organization. It is in accordance with recent announcements that SRO would take on a limited number of pictures other than Selznick productions, provided only that these pictures gave promise of being of outstanding quality and commercial appeal, capable of multimillion dollar grosses.

"Mr. Blanding" will go into production almost immediately, under the personal supervision of Dore Schary and the direction of H. C. Potter. A huge exploitation campaign is being plotted by Paul MacNamara, vice-president in charge of public relations of the David O. Selznick enterprises, and Perry Lieber, publicity director for RKO, looking toward a release of the film by SRO next summer.

"Mr. Blandings" is owned sixty per cent by the Selznick Enterprises and forty per cent by RKO. This is apart from distribution terms, which were not announced. It was stated by Daniel T. O'Shea there will be further announcements concerning joint ventures with RKO and with other producers. RKO and Selznick share the ownership of various other pictures produced by RKO, but "Mr. Blandings" will be the first that is not distributed by RKO.

Roth Honored For 25 Years Of Service

Harry Roth, manager of the Victory Theatre, Toronto, recently celebrated the 25th anniversary of his connection with the theatre, which began when the house opened its doors in 1922. He has seen the name change from the Standard to the Strand and finally to the Victory and become one of the key houses in the 20th Centry Theatres' circuit.

As a tribute to Roth's quarter-century of service he was presented with a refrigerator.

ECHOES and REFLECTIONS

How Not to Make Friends

From the Financial Post, Toronto

The new British tax on American films is something Chancellor Dalton is going to regret. He used dynamite for a job that could better have been done with a paring knife.

Sure, it can be said with logic that the British people can do with fewer U.S. films. But logic has little to do with the desires and reactions of the millions. And movies have done more in taking British minds off their other troubles of boredom and deprivation than Whitehall seems to realize.

But most astonishing is Dalton's indifference or blindness to the inevitable effect of his tax on Britain's "public relations" in America.

Britain's popularity in the U.S. has always been rather tenuous. Never has Britain been so dependent on U. S. understanding and aid. Ever since the beginning of the war, Britain has been spending vast sums—millions upon millions—on its big "information" machine which attempts to foster in American press, radio and moving pictures sympathetic and favorable treatment.

This movie tax demolishes at a blow much of the effective work that has been accomplished in this field. Now the active unfriendliness of the U.S. movie industry, of some of the U.S. press and radio, can be expected. This is not a good time for Britain to get more U.S. criticism.

Actually, it seems very doubtful if Dalton is going to save many U.S. dollars by his move. His hope was to reduce dollar remittances for American films from £17 millions to £4 millions by expropriating the other £13 millions in tax.

But British films in the American market are a substantial and very rapidly growing source of U.S. dollars. Only a few weeks ago J. Arthur Rank completed arrangements which for the first time would have made British films available to the majority of American moviegoers. In the first year of that new agreement, Britain would have earned 20 million U.S. dollars; more later. Retributive action by the U.S. film industry will now quite probably dynamite that important dollar source.

Dalton and his socialist cohorts have demonstrated themselves here and elsewhere as daring doctrinaires but with a remarkable naivete about the workings of human nature. It was once said of socialist Laski that he was "a man with both feet firmly planted in the clouds." Mr. Dalton's stance seems to be the same. Reducing the U.S. dollar drain for American films may have been a sound purpose. Dalton's method goes a long way to defeat it and brings other troubles.

'Spy For Both Sides' To Star Red Skelton

"Spy For Both Sides," a starring vehicle for Red Skelton, has been assigned as the first MGM production for Paul Jones, producer of the Bing Crosby-Bob Hope "Road" pictures and also responsible for "Monsieur Beaucaire" and "Dear Ruth." The story is an original by the comedy writing team of Norman Panama and Melvin Frank.

Paramount Acquires 'Streets Of Laredo'

Paramount has completed negotiations for screen rights to "Streets of Laredo" and inaugurated plans for filming the original Norman Reilly Raine story on a scale comparable with its highly successful "California." Raine has been signed to work on the story and Endre Bohem has been assigned to produce the picture.

R. R. KROETCH

With RCA for many years, has joined the engineering staff of Perkins Electric Company Limited, Montreal.

MacNamara Named To New SRO Posts

Paul MacNamara, for the past two years advertising and publicity director for Selznick Studios, has been elected by the board of directors of Selznick Releasing Organization, Incorporated, to the position of vice-president in charge of relations for that company and to the same post for Vanguard Films Incorporated.

His election to the identical posts in both companies was made, it was stated, so that he might co-ordinate and have full charge of all publicity, advertising, exploitation and public relations of the Selznick enterprises throughout the world.

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Screen Play by Lamar Trotti · Based on the Book by Miriam Young

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Dances Staged by Seymour Felix and Kenny Williams
Costumes Designed by Orry-Kelly

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